

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EA-10 L-02 H-02 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO HICOMTERPACIS IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY PRIORITY

COMTWELVE SFRAN PRIORITY

WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

JCS/SECDEF PRIORITY

DEPT OF INTERIOR PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 099185

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO SENATOR TENORIO

PASS TO STATUS LIAISON OFFICER BERGESEN

COMTWELVE FOR AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS

1. PLEASE DELIVER TO SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO FROM
AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS.

QUOTE: THE WHITE HOUSE

- WASHINGTON, D.C.

- OLD EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING

- ROOM 361

- WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

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- APRIL 28, 1975
SENATOR PEDRO A. TENORIO
MEMBER MARIANAS POLITICAL
STATUS COMMISSION
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950

DEAR SENATOR TENORIO:

I AM AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY OF
THE INTERIOR TO RESPOND TO YOUR MESSAGE OF 23 APRIL, 1975
AS FOLLOWS:

THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WHICH WAS SIGNED BY THE MPSC
AND BY THE U.S. ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975 WILL BE SUBMITTED TO
THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS WITHOUT MODIFICATION.
THE NEXT STEP IS TO GIVE THE PEOPLE THE FREE CHOICE ON
JUNE 17, 1975 TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE COMMONWEALTH COVE-
NANT AND POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES WHICH THEIR
DULY ELECTED AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES NEGOTIATED
PURSUANT TO THEIR MANDATE.

THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE SIGNED COVENANT AS NOT OPEN
TO REVISION, AMENDMENT OR RENEGOTIATION. IF IT IS
APPROVED BY 55 OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS THE COVENANT
WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
IN EXACTLY THE SAME FORM AS IT IS BEING PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS TO BE EITHER APPROVED OR
DISAPPROVED.

TO REPEAT, THE SIGNED COVENANT IS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE
PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AND THE CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A YES OR NO VOTE IN ITS ENTIRETY
AS IT NOW STANDS. AS YOU KNOW IT IS THE RESULT OF
MORE THAN 2 YEARS OF CAREFUL STUDY AND REVIEW AND PATIENT
NEGOTIATION. THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AS
REFLECTED IN THE COVENANT WERE ARRIVED AT ONLY AFTER
CAREFUL CONSULTATION WITHIN AND BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND
LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND
ONLY AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS OF THE MPSC
AND THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
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ISLANDS. THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT REPRESENTS THE
MAXIMUM ACCOMMODATION THE UNITED STATES CAN MAKE IN ITS
EFFORT TO SATISFY THE EXPRESSED DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT IN A
CLOSE AND ENDURING POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S..
THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD RESULT IN AN OFFER OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS MORE
FAVORABLE TO THE NORTHERN MARIANAS THAN THAT CONTAINED IN

THE SIGNED COVENANT.

IF THE COMMONWEALTH COVENANT IS REJECTED BY THE PEOPLE IN
THE JUNE 17 PLEBISCITE THE UNITED STATES EXPECTS THAT THE
NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL REMAIN A PART OF MICRONESIA AND
THAT THEY WILL SEEK AN ALTERNATIVE FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS
IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE OTHER DISTRICTS OF THE TTPI.
IF THE MARIANAS PEOPLE PREFER A COMMON FUTURE WITH THE
OTHER DISTRICTS THE UNITED STATES WILL RESPECT THESE
WISHES AND WILL PROCEED ACCORDINGLY AS IT MOVES TOWARD THE

TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT.

THE QUESTIONS FOR WHICH YOU HAVE REQUESTED ANSWERS WERE
THOROUGHLY COVERED DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.
DETAILED ANSWERS ARE, HOWEVER, IN PREPARATION AND WILL BE
FORWARDED SOONEST. I HOPE THAT THE EXPLANATION WILL
PROVIDE AN AUTHORITATIVE BASIS FOR AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE
ISSUES RAISED BY YOUR MESSAGE.

- SINCERELY YOURS,

- F. HAYDN WILLIAMS
- U.S. AMBASSADOR
- MICRONESIAN STATUS NEGOTIATIONS
END QUOTE.

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TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, TQ, US, (TENORIO, PEDRO A), (WILLIAMS, F HAYDN)
To: HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
Type: TE
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